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Subject: Connecting climate and food; A two-week journey along the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

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July 10, 2017

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the environment delivered weekly*



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TAKE ACTION ON OUR CAMPUSES

Write to President Price, Welcoming Him to Duke and Urging Him to Lead on the Environment

Last Sunday, July 1, Dr. Vincent Price took the office of President of Duke University. The Duke Climate Coalition greatly appreciated their time with President Brodhead and look forward to working with President Price to advance environmental and climate leadership at Duke.



Will you join the Climate Coalition in welcoming President Price by sending him an email this month urging him to lead on the environment? The Coalition wants President Price to hear loud and clear that the Duke community wants real action on our most pressing environmental issues.

Please see bit.ly/welcomeprice for a template email and how to send. Feel free to modify the text to add your own comments - a personalized message is much more powerful!

ICYMI: Stand up for the UNC Center for Civil Rights



UNC
CENTER FOR
CIVIL RIGHTS

Since 2001, the UNC Center for Civil Rights (CCR) has been committed to the advancement of civil rights and social justice in the American South through its work in the areas of education, fair housing, environmental justice, and community inclusion. The Educational Policy Committee of the Board of Governors should vote against the proposal, or any new version of it, that would stop the CCR's ability to conduct litigation and legal advocacy, which will result in negative effects for the most marginalized North Carolinians.

1. **Attend a UNC Board of Governors meeting at on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 2:30PM. The meeting will occur at UNC-Asheville's Wilma Sherrill Center, Room 402.**
2. **Email the UNC Board of Governors, public@bog.northcarolina.edu, and the UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor, chancellor@unc.edu, in support of the Center.**
3. **Write a Letter to the Editor by emailing jjenkins@newsobserver.com or letters@heraldsun.com (200 words).**

<http://rachelcarsoncouncil.org/take-action/>

CURRENT EVENTS

Walking the Line: A Two-Week Journey on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline Route



Although the “No Pipeline” signs speak for themselves, don’t call it a protest. According to organizers, Walking the Line: Into the Heart of Virginia, is a moving celebration of what’s on the line—literally and figuratively—of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline route that bisects Virginia on a northwest to southeast diagonal.

“We did not walk to protest. We walked to celebrate. To celebrate the land and what’s there, the beauty, the people, what can be destroyed by Dominion’s pipeline,” said lead organizer Lee White, while addressing the crowd assembled to honor the end of the two-week trek.

Walking the Line started near the West Virginia border in Highland County, Va., on June 16, continued through Bath, Augusta and Nelson counties and wrapped up with a church service, water ceremony and community meal at Union Hill Baptist church in Buckingham County on July 2.

[Read more at Daily Climate](#)

The E.P.A.'s Dangerous Anti-Regulatory Policies

This week, while attention was focussed on the Senate's health-care bill, the Trump Administration continued to quietly do the one thing it does well: wreak havoc on the environment. On Tuesday, the Environmental Protection Agency released its plan to rescind the Clean Water Rule, also known as the Waters of the United States rule, or *wotus*. *wotus* essentially represents the Obama Administration's attempt to clarify which waterways are governed by the Clean Water Act. A memo that the E.P.A. issued when the rule was put in place, in 2015, notes that it protects streams that roughly one in three Americans depend on for drinking water. (This memo is not currently available on the E.P.A.'s Web site; to find it, you have to go to the archived site.)



You might think that the well-being of a third of the population—some hundred and seventeen million people—would be of significance to the E.P.A., but then you might also think that the agency is there to protect the environment. The Trump Administration thinks otherwise. In announcing the proposal, the E.P.A.

administrator, Scott Pruitt, didn't even bother to pretend that he was interested in public safety. Instead, he said, the agency's goal was to "provide regulatory certainty to the nation's farmers and businesses."

[Read more at The New Yorker](#)

Controversy, Questions Surround California's Listing of Weed Killer as Cancer Cause



California's official listing today of the world's most widely used weed killer as a known carcinogen marks a milestone in what has been years of debate over the safety of the pesticide called glyphosate. But it by no means marks the end of controversy over the chemical, or arguments over what warnings – if any – should be placed on an herbicide that is a mainstay for U.S. farming and for maintaining household lawns and gardens, city parks and school grounds.

Officials with California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) have until early April to work out guidelines for glyphosate product warnings before requirements for such warnings take effect in July 2018. At the same time, OEHHA continues to face a court challenge from Monsanto Co., which introduced glyphosate more than 40 years ago, and makes billions of dollars off glyphosate-based Roundup herbicides. The chemical, now off patent, is also active in

hundreds of other herbicide products.

“This is not the final step in the process... We will continue to aggressively challenge this improper decision,” Monsanto said in a statement.

California’s move to list glyphosate as a known carcinogen was triggered by the March 2015 decision by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to classify glyphosate as a probable human carcinogen.

[Read more at Environmental Health News](#)

We Can No Longer Outrun Antibiotic Resistance. So, Here’s What We Need to do Instead

From the muddy bottoms of deep ocean trenches to Komodo dragon blood, scientists have scoured Earth’s remote corners in search of molecules that could yield the world’s next antibiotic. They hope to discover powerful new medicines



against which bacteria have not yet evolved defenses. It’s a high-stakes pursuit. Disease-causing bacteria are becoming resistant to antibiotics more quickly than we’re discovering new ones.

That’s a big problem for humans. Infections that throughout the 20th century became easy to treat because of antibiotics have today become deadly. In the United States

alone, more than 2 million people each year are infected with bacteria that can't be killed by the drugs that were meant to stop them. At least 23,000 of those people will die as a result of their infections.

[Read more at ENSIA](#)

A Dam Could Derail the Chesapeake Bay Cleanup



For nearly seven years since the cleanup started, the federal government and six states in the bay's watershed have reduced municipal sewer overflows that pour nitrogen and phosphorus into rivers that feed into the bay, and cut the fertilizers and other nutrients that run off from hundreds of farms. They also counted on the Conowingo Dam to block massive amounts of sediment in the Susquehanna River from smothering bay grasses that nurture marine life.

But that part of the plan has gone very wrong.

According to a report being prepared by scientists who work for the Environmental Protection Agency program that manages the bay cleanup, the reservoir behind the hydroelectric dam, which sits at the top of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, near the Pennsylvania border, has filled with sediment far sooner than the agency had predicted.

[Read more at The Washington Post](#)

New Studies Shed Light on Insecticide's Effect on Bees, Economic Consequences of Climate Change

A recent study looked at the economic consequences of climate change and concluded it will make the U.S. poorer and more unequal if present trends continue. The South would be hit the hardest.

A different set of studies looked at the health of bees in connection to insecticides used in crops. Bees are critical for our global food production.

Honeybees alone are responsible for pollinating \$15 billion of U.S. crops.



The new papers demonstrated the popular insecticide used in agriculture called neonicotinoids can be harmful to bees.

[Read more at PBS Newshour](#)

Alberta Failing on Risk From Leaking Oil and Gas Wells, Says Expert



The author of a unpublished [report](#) on leaking abandoned oil and gas wells in Alberta's cities and towns says the province's regulator doesn't have the expertise to deal with the growing public health and safety issues in a timely manner.

"The expertise to assess the health risk of abandoned wells really doesn't exist in house," charged Monique Dube, former chief environmental scientist with the Alberta Energy Regulator and one of the authors of a report on the toxicity of abandoned wells in Alberta.

A report for Natural Resources Canada has described methane leakage from active or abandoned wells as "a serious threat to the environment and public safety" with the risk of "irreversible contamination of freshwater aquifers, accumulation of explosive gases within and around residences and other structures and contribution to greenhouse gases."

[Read more at The Tyee](#)

From Beef to Palm Oil,

Investors Worry about Climate Risk in the Food Industry

An oil giant and a pizza-delivery titan share an unlikely bond—a powerful shareholder with a climate conscience.

New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli oversees the country's third-largest pension fund, with \$192 billion in assets, and is concerned both about ExxonMobil's tar sands oil and about the sources of palm oil and other ingredients that go into Domino's pizzas.



He's at the forefront of a trend. Over the past several months, historic shareholder resolutions have pushed oil giants, including Exxon, to disclose their climate-related risks. Food companies are next, experts and investors now say—whether they use or produce palm oil, corn, soy or beef, to name some with the biggest climate impacts.

"There are many products consumers enjoy daily that suppliers produce in ways that destroy rainforests and promote climate change," DiNapoli said. "More and more companies recognize that by taking steps to buy palm oil or soy from suppliers that do not contribute to deforestation, they are promoting better environmental practices and protecting their shareholder value."

[Read more at Inside Climate News](#)

With a Tick Boom, It's Not Just Lyme Disease You Have to Fear



Everybody knows about Lyme disease. But experts say the Northern United States may be in for a bad tick season this summer, raising concerns about Lyme and other scary tick-borne diseases, including the Powassan virus, which causes encephalitis and can leave people with permanent neurological damage.

“This spring definitely seems worse than others I remember,” said Dr. Catherine Wiley, chief of general pediatrics at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. “People are coming in from the yard with numerous ticks on them.”

[Read more at The New York Times](#)

The Rachel Carson Council, founded in 1965, is the national environmental organization envisioned by Rachel Carson to carry on her work after her death. We promote Carson's ecological ethic that combines scientific concern for the environment and human health with a sense of wonder and reverence for all forms of life in order to build a sustainable, just, and peaceful future.

Over the years we at RCC have been devoted to providing you the public with important, timely information about the environment. RCC exists because of donations from individuals like you.

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